Railway Crossings on National Highways in Assam

1178. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of railway-crossings on the National Highways that are running through Assam;

(b) whether State Government of Assam had requested the Central Government to construct flyovers on those places;

(c) whether Government propose to construct flyovers at these places; and

(d) if so, by when the work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 33 Numbers.

(b) The State Government have initiated proposals for road over bridges at five locations.

(c) and (d) The Railways can consider sanctioning these works only on receipt of firm proposals from the State Government with an undertaking to share the cost as per rules, which have not been received so far.

Drop-outs in Primary Education Level

1179. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the figures of drop-out of students at the primary education level during the last two years, State wise;

(b) whether there has been any increase or decrease in the drop-out; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to reduce the number of drop-outs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) The Vth All India Educational Survey being conducted by NCERT with reference date as 30-9-1986 is collecting information about drop-out rates among other things. The results of this Survey are not yet available. The latest figures available presently pertains to the year, 1981-82.

(c) Children drop out of schools for a number of reasons, some of which relate to attitude of teachers, parents and students. There is no single programme which if implemented, would lead to a specified reduction in drop-out rates. The causes leading to drop-outs being many, a whole range of programmes is needed to have an impact on the situation. Various incentive programmes like free supply of uniforms to girl students, [illegible]ay-meals, free text books and [illegible] scholarships are being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations and this Ministry has been persuading the State Governments to increase the coverage to the extent possible. These various measures have been under implementation in 1986-87.

Apart from these initiatives and strengthening of existing arrangements by the State Governments, as primarily they look after school education, the Government of India is also taking some new initiatives such as 'Operation Black board' to make available essential facilities in all Primary Schools, strengthening and re-organisation of Non-formal education for school drop-outs, children from habitations without schools, working children and girls who cannot attend wholeday schools, re-organisation and restructuring of Teacher Education and development of a Core Curriculum. All these measures together are expected to lead to substanial reduction in drop-out rates.

Publication of Urdu Encyclopedia

1180. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the time by when the last volume of Urdu encyclopedia is likely to be published;